



LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER (Issue 26 - December 2011)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Carols around the Christmas tree - Bring your children (and not so little children)
Hipsburn Square, Friday, December 16th at 5.00pm. Refreshments will be provided.

Precept - The Parish Council are pleased to announce that there will be **NO INCREASE** in the precept in 2012/ 2013. Last year the precept was increased to cover any extra responsibilities / costs devolved from the County Council. We have managed to absorb these for the moment but may incur others in the future. Costs have been kept down by various means such as the use of volunteers e.g. clearing and maintenance of hedges and buying items such as easily-maintained benches. Put in perspective we still have one of the lowest precepts in the County.

Speeding - Speeding traffic was one of the biggest grievances highlighted in the Parish Plan. Recently you may have noticed an increased police presence, often with an education board highlighting motorists' speed. A recent article in the "Gazette" reported on the police Community Speedwatch programme in the north of the County. Speeding does not appear to be a huge issue in the region but significantly 41 drivers were sent warning letters by the police after speeding through Hipsburn. This was twice as many as any other village covered by the Speedwatch programme. In order to obtain statistical data on speeding in the Parish, the PC has applied to NCC to have monitoring strips on the main roads through the Parish.



Grit bins - The PC has ordered some new grit bins at a cost of £200 each; this includes 2 refills / year. The County Council has asked us to remind residents that the grit is for use on public roads only and should not be taken for private use. One memory of last winter was of the residents of the Coppice who organised themselves into a snow-clearing group; a good example of what can be done communally; it is hoped that other groups will step forward should the need arise.

High Path - It has been noted by the PC that the High Path is in poor condition especially at the corner with Curly Lane. NCC has been asked to clear the pathway to give better access. Longer term the PC have submitted a request under the Local Development Framework to redevelop the path at this point to level it out smoothly into Curly Lane. The crash barrier at this corner has been damaged for some time but has now been replaced. Work has also started by Northumberland Estates on the opposite corner to tidy the wooded area and repair the wall.



Parish Plan - Representatives of the PC met with the Parish Plan Steering Committee for a review of the Action Plans developed in the Plan. The Plan has been very valuable for the PC in discussions with NCC and Northumberland Estates and some 90% of the action points have been discussed and acted upon. The PC will now try to address outstanding points but some of these will need the help of volunteers especially on the development of information on the history of the area including its natural history. Volunteers will also

be needed in order to update Neighbourhood Watch schemes. A report of the meeting together with the action points can be viewed on the parish website www.lesbury-pc.org.uk and by following the Parish Plan link.

The retention of **the Mobile Library** was highlighted in the Plan. NCC has informed us that the number of vehicles will be reduced from 4 to 3 this year and that new routes and schedules will be developed. Find out more on the NCC website www.Northumberland.gov.uk. There will also be a consultation meeting on the 10th December at 9.30-10.30 at the Burnside Pub, Longhoughton.



Hipsburn School - As seen in the photographs the Log Cabin is now up and running and providing valuable extra space for many activities e.g. music. The last Newsletter mentioned fund-raising for equipping the cabin and "Friends of the Shed" have raised £2,100 to date - congratulations!



Oil Clubs - No we hadn't heard of them either! An oil club is a group of residents who want to save money by purchasing heating oil collectively in bulk. Existing oil clubs across the country save an average of 10%! Alnwick and District Citizens Advice Bureau is looking for community spirited people who can spare a few hours each month to act as oil club co-ordinators in their community. Please register your interest by contacting the Citizens Advice Bureau on 01665 604136 or by emailing your name, address and telephone number to alwickcab@alwick.f9.co.uk.

Britain in Bloom - Have you got green fingers? The Parish has registered for the Britain in Bloom event. During next year we will be visited twice by the judges, in Spring and in Summer; they will advise on how we can improve the Parish visually. Your help would be appreciated to keep the Parish tidy and if possible plant a few extra "blooms" for more visual impact. More on this in 2012.



Nature note - An iconic and colourful `Christmas card` bird the Waxwing could be in a garden near you soon. Named after the red 'sealing wax' drops at the tip of the inner wing feathers, these beautiful birds can, in some winters when the berry crop fails in Scandinavia, cross the North Sea, literally, in their thousands in search of food. They have already been seen in the south of the county and north of the border, so there may be some around here feeding voraciously on Rowan, Hawthorn or other berries found in parks and gardens. It is easy to mistake a group of Waxwings for Starlings as they are similar in shape, so it's worth `checking out` any flock of garrulous birds.

Help! - Sue Jackson, Brown Owl from Alnmouth 1st Brownies is appealing for old Brownie Uniforms to be returned to her. Please check your cupboards and return uniforms no longer needed.!

And finally - the eagle-eyed amongst you will have seen that the Parish noticeboards have had a tidy and any commercial adverts removed. Our policy is to support advertising for charity and community events but not commercial ads. If you place an ad on the boards then please do it tidily - thank you.

Parish Clerk
Mrs Elizabeth Taylor
Rivendell, Steppy Lane,
Lesbury, NE66 3PU,
Tel: 01665 830040
lesburyparishclerk@googlemail.c

Parish Council Chairman:
Tom Wilson 01665 830522
lesburyparish@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council meetings are held in Lesbury Village Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All residents are welcome to attend. A full list of Parish Councillors can be found on www.lesbury-pc.org.uk